



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT AT THE HOSPITAL OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

BY CLARA C. RUE, STUDENT NURSE

*Los Angeles, California*

The year 1919 marks the sixth anniversary of an important organization in the Nurses' Training School of the Hospital of the Good Samaritan; namely, Student Body Government. This organization has been a most valuable factor in the upbuilding of the school and one of which each member has every reason to be proud.

Knowing that trust in an individual will raise that person's standards, our country has, for the past ten or twelve years, endeavored to improve the discipline in its high schools and colleges by placing upon its students the responsibility of self government. The inefficiency of student body government, more especially in the high schools, has been due largely to the care-free and irresponsible attitude of its members. The nurses' student body of the Hospital of the Good Samaritan has not this condition to meet, for a young woman entering the nursing profession realizes very early the responsibility of her position in life. It would seem most plausible that self government should operate successfully amongst a body of professional women. But upon deeper thought, the difficulties of such a government begin to appear. However, these can be overcome very readily by having a strong foundation on which to build. What the foundation needs is a body of nurses with high standards and a superintendent whom they love, respect and admire. With these assets, student body government in a nurses' training school develops the weaker nurses, weeds out the undesirable ones, and promotes a feeling of pride and loyalty in the school.

The following is a very condensed summary of the methods used in this school:

The student body officers are elected once a year from the senior class. Prior to the election, a nominating committee submits the nominations to the superintendent of the hospital for approval. The officers consist of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, librarian and five monitors. There is also a board of student body affairs, consisting of the student body officers and the president and vice-president of each class.

The nurse elected to be president of the school should be a woman of force and character. She should be a woman who understands girls, and who can comprehend their desires and difficulties. She, as the representative of the school, submits all recommendations and requests of the student body to the superintendent of the hospital,

who, in turn, presents her wishes to the president of the student body to be placed before its members. Complaints concerning the conduct of nurses are made to the president. If worthy of consideration, the matter is brought before the board of student body affairs and, if deemed necessary by them, is placed before the student body for consideration.

The president is assisted by five monitors, of her own selection, from the senior class. It is the duty of the monitors to enforce all rules of the school, to see that there is proper observance of seniority, to supervise all matters of uniforms and personal neatness among the nurses, and to have general oversight of the good conduct and well being of the school. The senior class, as a whole, takes the discipline of the school as its duty, thus lightening the work of the officers very much.

The opportunities for abusing and overstepping rules are greater under student body government, but the desire remains latent. There is no supervision in the nurses' home by the superintendent or the hospital supervisors. Each monitor is in charge of a floor, and occasionally it becomes necessary for her to remind the nurses of their duties, but not often.

In admitting new nurses into the school, it is endeavored to make them feel as comfortable as possible. The probationers are received by members of the student body, appointed by the president. The first evening she instructs them as to the rules of the school and the general conduct of the nurses. They are urged to come to her with any difficulties which arise, that they may not become discouraged in their early training. When the probationers are capped and are taken into the student body, the president impresses upon them what is expected of them, as members of the school.

How much student government has grown a part of the school life can hardly be realized, but the loyalty and pride which it has instilled are most evident. The responsibility of making this school the best, falls on each individual nurse. The path is not always smooth, for occasionally there are among the nurses, girls who endeavor to pollute the weaker minds and to shatter their ideals, causing a feeling of dissatisfaction. Fortunately their sojourn is usually short.

The above is a very brief outline of student body government at the Hospital of the Good Samaritan. To write in detail would make a long paper.

It is to Mrs. Walker, the superintendent, that gratitude is due for conceiving a plan of government for the school, which has given so much freedom, loyalty and self-respect to the students.